

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) for 15 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Chairman, 2 weeks ago yesterday, an extremely high-ranking member of the American forces in Europe took the time to visit, at our request, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and myself.

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At that time, that extremely high-ranking American officer expressed his concern that the Congress really had not gotten behind this effort, and he felt that it was bad for morale, bad for the troops and quite possibly could affect the outcome of the conflict.

The question, as I recall, from the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) was what can we do; how can we help? If I recall, that officer, being the good officer that he is, he said that is not my place to tell Congress what to do. So, then, a suggestion was made by the gentleman from Missouri, well, what if we came out for something? What if after all this time, and at that time it had been over 45 days, Congress finally says what we are for in this conflict? That extremely high-ranking officer said, yes, that would help; the troops need to know that Congress is for something.

He then went on to say that it would probably be helpful to say that we are for the goals already articulated by NATO. And at some point someone said, well, what about the war criminals; what about the ones who made this happen? Should they not be held accountable? The answer was yes, they should be, and that should be one of America's goals. With that in mind, the gentleman from Missouri and I drafted this amendment.

I want to take the time to compliment the new Speaker of the House. He may not even remember the conversation, but 2 weeks ago today, as the rule for this bill appeared to be going down, I took the time to ask the Speaker to sit right there, explained to him what had happened, and told him how important I thought it was that America's Congress, if the 435 elected representatives of the people elected just last November, express what we are for in this conflict. I do not think it is a coincidence that we are where we are today, and I do thank the Speaker for what I think is his help in seeing that this will happen.

The amendment before my colleagues takes the stated goals of NATO and adds to them two additional goals. Number one, Slobodan Milosevic, who by all accounts has now started four wars, one in Slovenia, one in Croatia, one in Bosnia, one in Kosovo, be held accountable for the rapes, the murders, the torture and the destruction caused by him and his lackeys in four wars.

I took the time to research the Gulf War debate from January of 1991. I took the time to see what many of my colleagues said then. In almost every

instance they talked about the rapes, they talked about the murders, they talked about innocent lives being taken by a brutal dictator and his henchmen. It is the same thing now.

We are the good guys. And as many of my colleagues have reminded their other colleagues, yes, we cannot be the policemen for the world, but there are some things that we can do. And those things we can do, we should do. And to quote the preacher at Walter Jones, Sr.'s funeral, "And with the help of God, we will do."

We have proven in Bosnia there are some things we can do. The highest reenlistment rates in the United States Army come from people who have just been to Bosnia, because they know they are doing good things.

A couple of years ago I went over there fully intending to come home with a notebook full of stories of why we should not be in Bosnia. I took the time to stay at the mess halls and visit with the kids. A young kid from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, not knowing my agenda, just told me what was on his mind. His name was Chuck Rhodes. Should we be here? Yes. Why? Because I am keeping women from getting raped, I am keeping little kids from getting tortured, I am keeping old people from being drug out of their houses and murdered. That is why I joined the United States Army, to be a good guy.

He said it more clearly than any Secretary of State, any admiral, any general, any President. In five sentences he articulated what we are trying to do as a Nation. It is about time that this Congress, which is given the constitutional duty to provide for the troops, to provide for the common defense, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces. That is what this is all about. We are making the rules for the peace in Bosnia. And I regret that we are 60 days late, but it is never too late to do the right thing.

So I would ask all of my colleagues, regardless of whatever hesitation that they may have had before this started, to recognize the fact that Bill Clinton did not win this war, Madeleine Albright did not win this war, the brave young Americans who flew over 30,000 sorties, and put their lives on the line every time they did so, they won this war. Let us do not give away the peace that they have won. And let us say as a Nation this is what we are for, and that since they have been willing to put their lives on the line to let it happen, let us as a Congress make sure that it does happen.

So I ask all of my colleagues, regardless of whatever hesitations they might have had before, let us be for this. Let us be for taking a communist tyrant who has raped people, murdered people, forced parents to have sex with their own children at gun point, thrown so many bodies in the rivers of Yugoslavia that the turbines in the hydroelectric plants clogged with their corpses, let

us see to it that they are brought to justice and that we send a message as a Nation that people who do those sorts of things will be held accountable and we are not going to let it happen again.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member seek the time in opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from Mississippi?

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time set aside for the opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for 15 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say to my colleague, as a Member who did vote to support the air operation, and who has a number of members of my staff working as volunteers to try to help the people who have been oppressed, who have been moved out of Kosovo, that we are not home free; that this is a very, very difficult situation; that it can be argued very strongly that Mr. Milosevic has accomplished most of his foreign policy goals, if in fact those goals were to destroy the homes and the livelihoods of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Very clearly, that has been almost entirely accomplished. I have not gotten the latest reports, but my understanding is that most of the villages, and which a substantial majority of Kosovo is ethnic Albanian, have in fact been burned. There are not many villages, if any, left to burn.

Now, my friend talked about the troops and about the wonderful performance of our men and women in this air war. Let me just reiterate this point, because I do not think it can be reiterated enough. I do not think many of those folks watch us on television, and I do not think many of them read the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I think the place where they see the manifestation of our support or lack of support is in several ways: One, when they sit at the breakfast table with their wives and their children and they look at their paycheck and they notice that their paycheck is now 13 percent on the average less than the paycheck on the outside. That means if they are an electronics technician in the Navy that they are making 13 percent less than if they were working in the private sector. I think that says something to them about how important they are to us.

Secondly, when they go out on operations and they discover that they do not have the right type of preferred ammunition, and in some cases they know the ammunition stocks are almost gone, that says something to them about their prioritization within this House of Representatives.

And lastly, when they have to climb into that piece of equipment, whether it is the B-52 bomber that the Clinton administration now says we will fly until they are 80 years old, instead of